

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



USDA National Organic Program:

Overview of the NOP and the National List

NAFTA Biopesticide Registration Improvement Course

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What is organic production?

- Organic Foods Production Act of 1990
- National Organic Program Standards, 7 CFR Part 205
- Organic production. A production system that is managed in accordance with the Act and regulations in this part to respond to site-specific conditions by integrating cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity.



USDA National Organic Program's Role

- Accreditation: Accredite certifying agents, Approve State Organic Programs (SOP)
- Compliance and Enforcement: Compliant processing
- Standards: Promulgate, amend, and implement regulations
- International Agreements: Recognition Agreements, Equivalency, Export Arrangements
- National Organic Standards Board



NOP Regulations: Crop Production

- No prohibited substances on land/fields for 3 years
- Establish buffer zones
- Maintain or improve soil condition
- Minimize soil erosion
- Rotations, cover crops, and application of plant and animal material
- No contribution to environmental contamination through application of plant and animal material



NOP Regulations: Certification of Organic Operations

- Organic system plan
 - Crops: organic seeds, build soil fertility, preventive management practices
 - Livestock: origin, feed, healthcare, living conditions, pasture management
 - Handling/processing: pest management, prevent commingling
- Use only approved substances/practices
 - No genetic engineering, irradiation, sewage sludge
 - National List: synthetics allowed in crops/livestock production; synthetics and non-synthetics allowed for handling/processing
- Mandatory verification through inspections
 - Initial site inspection
 - Annual site inspection
 - Unannounced inspections to determine compliance



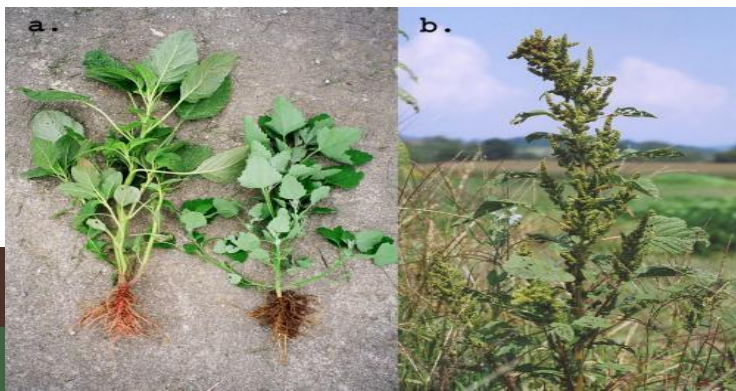
Pest Control

- Use of only allowed materials to control crop pests (205.206(b))
 - Introduced predators and parasites of a pest species
 - Nonsynthetic lures, traps & repellents
 - Synthetics allowed on the National List for crop production



Weed & Crop Disease Control

- Use of only allowed materials to control weeds (205.206(c))
- Use of only allowed materials to control crop disease (205.206(d))



- Allowed weed control materials include but are not limited to- fully biodegradable mulch material 205.206 (c)(1)
- Plastic or other synthetic mulches 205.206(c)(6)
- Substances included on the National List of synthetic substances allowed for organic crop production 205.206(e)
- Allowed materials to control crop disease application of nonsynthetic biological, botanical, or mineral inputs 205.206(d)(2)



The National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances, §§ 205.600 – 205.606

- Allowed synthetic substances & prohibited substances in organic crop or livestock production
- Allowed synthetic & non-synthetic substances for organic handling/processing
- Sunset process – 5 year review of National List substances by the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
- Petition process – Guidelines to either add or delete substances from the National List: Federal Register Notice, 72 FR 2167, January 18, 2007



Allowed Nonsynthetic (Natural) Pesticide Active Ingredients

A substance that is derived from mineral, plant, or animal matter and does not undergo a synthetic process as defined in section 6502(21) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 6502(21)).

- Pyrethrum
- Bacteria (e.g. *Bt*)
- Spinosad
- Neem oil / Azadirachtin
- Diatomaceous earth
- Plant oils
- Gibberellic acid
- Limonene
- Mined minerals

Other natural substances allowed if not explicitly prohibited



Prohibited Nonsynthetic (Natural) Pesticides on the National List, § 205.602

A substance that is derived from mineral, plant, or animal matter and does not undergo a synthetic process as defined in section 6502(21) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 6502(21)).

- Arsenic
- Lead salts
- Strychnine
- Tobacco dust
(nicotine sulfate)



Allowed Synthetic Active Ingredients on the National List, § 205.601

Commonly used substances

- Insecticidal soaps
- Horticultural oils
- Pheromones
- Elemental sulfur
- Copper sulfate / fixed coppers
- Lime sulfur
- Hydrated lime
- Potassium bicarbonate
- Ferric phosphate

Sanitizers

Chlorine materials
Alcohol (ethanol, isopropanol)
Peracetic acid
Ozone
Hydrogen peroxide

NOTE: Many substances have annotations which restrict their use.

A complete list of allowed synthetic substances is available at § 205.601



Allowed Inert Ingredients

- Nonsynthetic (Natural) Substances
 - A substance that is derived from mineral, plant, or animal matter and does not undergo a synthetic process as defined in section 6502(21) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 6502(21)).
- Synthetic Substances
 - Must be listed on former EPA List 4A or List 4B
 - For passive pheromone dispensers, may be on former EPA List 3

For more information, see NOP 5008 – Guidance Reassessed Inert Ingredients available at www.ams.usda.gov/nop



Evaluation of Materials

- All ingredients (active and inerts) must comply with the National Organic Standards
- Certifying agents may conduct an individual product review
- Certifying agents may rely on reputable third party sources which conduct material review (e.g. EPA, OMRI, WSDA).
- Documentation must accompany approval

For more information, see NOP Policy Memo 11-4 available at www.ams.usda.gov/nop



Resources

- USDA National Organic Program: www.ams.usda.gov/nop
- National Organic Program Standards, 7 CFR Part 205
- National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances, §§ 205.600 - 205.606
- NOP Program Handbook (includes guidance documents and policy memos): www.ams.usda.gov/nopprogramhandbook
- OMRI Generic : www.omri.org

THANK YOU!